


In the Claims:

Claims 1-31 (Cancelled)

Claims 32-44 (Cancelled)

Claims 45-58 (Cancelled)

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technology
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59. (New) A method for ordering and tracking products for a data center, the data center comprising one or more assets, the method comprising:
- creating an asset record for an asset that is needed in the data center, wherein the asset is comprised of at least one component;
  - creating a purchase order for the at least one component of the asset;
  - storing the asset record and purchase order information in a management database, wherein the stored purchase order information is associated with the asset record in the management database;
  - transmitting the purchase order for the component to a supplier, vendor or buying agent;
  - after the creating an asset record step, receiving the component along with information regarding the purchase order of the component; and
  - retrieving and updating the asset record in the management database using the received purchase order information,
  - wherein each of the method steps are performed by a single entity.
60. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the single entity is an entity that purchases the component.
61. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the updating step comprises updating the asset record in the management database to reflect that the component has been received.

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62. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the creating an asset record, creating a purchase order, storing the asset record and purchase order information, transmitting the purchase order, and retrieving and updating steps are performed automatically, without human intervention.
63. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein an asset template is used to create the asset record and the purchase order.
64. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein the asset record contains information relating to the asset including physical descriptors of the asset, resources consumed by the asset, or soft attributes of the asset.
65. (New) The method of claim 59 wherein receiving the component comprises:  
receiving a container including the component, wherein a machine-readable code has been placed on the outside of the container; and  
scanning the machine-readable code, wherein the code contains information on the purchase order of the component.
66. (New) The method according to claim 59, wherein the received purchase order information comprises a purchase order number, a model or serial number of the component, and information regarding the shipped configuration of the component.
67. (New) The method according to claim 59, further comprising:  
determining whether all components required for assembling an asset have been received.
68. (New) The method according to claim 67, further comprising:

placing the component in a storage area, if all the components required for assembling an asset have not been received.

69. (New) The method according to claim 67, further comprising:  
assembling an asset, if all components required for its assembly have been received.

70. (New) The method according to claim 69, further comprising:  
generating an asset ID for the asset if the asset is deployable, the asset ID being a unique identifier within the data center.

71. (New) The method according to claim 70, further comprising:  
placing the asset ID on the deployable asset.

72. (New) The method according to claim 70, further comprising:  
updating the asset record in the management database to reflect that the asset is deployable.

73. (New) A computer readable medium that stores a computer program for ordering and tracking products for a data center, the data center comprising one or more assets, the computer program comprising sets of instructions for:  
creating an asset record for an asset that is needed in the data center, wherein the asset is comprised of at least one component;  
creating a purchase order for the at least one component of the asset;  
storing the asset record and purchase order information in a management database, wherein the stored purchase order information is associated with the asset record in the management database;  
transmitting the purchase order for the component to a supplier, vendor or buying agent;

after creating an asset record, receiving the component along with information regarding the purchase order of the component; and  
retrieving and updating the asset record in the management database using the received purchase order information,  
wherein each set of instructions are caused to be executed by a single entity.

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74. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 73 wherein the single entity is an entity that purchases the component.

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75. (New) The computer readable medium of claim 73 wherein the asset record contains information relating to the asset including physical descriptors of the asset, resources consumed by the asset, or soft attributes of the asset.

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76. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 73, wherein the received purchase order information comprises a purchase order number, a model or serial number of the component, and information regarding the shipped configuration of the component.

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77. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 73, further comprising sets of instructions for:  
determining whether all components required for assembling an asset have been received.

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78. (New) The computer readable medium according to claim 77, further comprising sets of instructions for:  
assembling an asset, if all components required for its assembly have been received; and

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generating an asset ID for the asset if the asset is deployable, the asset ID being a unique identifier within the data center.

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